

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00556 111029Z

15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02 SY-04

M-02 A-01 OPR-02 SAM-01 AID-20 EA-11 USSS-00 EB-11

DRC-01 /147 W

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O 110845Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2072

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 0556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: THESSALONIKI 539

1. DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED BY CYPRIOT STUDENTS' UNION
IN THESSALONIKI HELD AT 1700 SEPTEMBER 10 AT THESSALONIKI
UNIVERSITY. STUDENTS ADDRESSED BY UNION PRESIDENT WHO
STRONGLY CRITICISED EOKA-B AND CALLED FOR CESSATION OF
ALL GREEK AID TO ORGANIZATION. FOLLOWING MEETING, STUDENTS
BEGAN MARCH TO CONGEN BUT WERE PEACEFULLY DIVERTED FROM
AREA BY AUTHORITIES AND PROCEEDED TO THESSALONIKI FAIR
GROUNDS WHERE THEY ALSO FAILED TO GAIN ADMISSION.
OBSERVERS ALONG ROUTE ESTIMATED DEMONSTRATORS AT BETWEEN
1,000-5,000, ALTHOUGH THESSALONIKI PAPERS OF SEPTEMBER 11
REPORT TOTAL OF 2,500-3,000.

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PAGE 02 THESSA 00556 111029Z

2. PLACARDS CARRIED BY STUDENTS FOCUSED ON CYPRUS, THE US AND NATO. AMONG MANY NOTED, THERE WERE "NATO BUTCHERS OUR BROTHERS IN CYPRUS", "THE JUNTA OUT OF CYPRUS", "EOKA-B, TREASON", NATO-CIA TREASON", "MURDERER KISSINGER" AND "NATO TANKS MURDER DEMOCRACY". DEMONSTRATORS ALSO DESTROYED TWO AMERICAN FLAGS, ONE OF WHICH PULLED DOWN FROM FLAGPOLE OUTSIDE INTERNATIONAL FAIR AND RIPPED UP. LATTER ACT APPLAUDED BY BYSTANDERS AS WERE ALL SLOGANS. PHOTOGRAPHS ON FLAG DESTRUCTION AND EXTENSIVE FACTUAL REPORTS ON DEMONSTRATION FRONTPAGED IN BOTH THESSALONIKI MORNING PAPERS SEPTEMBER 11.

3. CONGEN WARNED TWO HOURS PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 10 DEMONSTRATION BY ALIENS POLICE DIRECTOR LT. COLONEL BITHAS AND ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN. DURING PERIOD OF DEMONSTRATION U.S. OBSERVERS NOTED 400-500 POLICE REINFORCEMENTS AROUND CONGEN AND IN ADJACENT STREETS. BITHAS CORRECTLY ANTICIPATED THAT DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD BE RESTRAINED AND NOT POSE SECURITY THREAT TO CONGEN. BY CONTRAST, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SECOND DEMONSTRATION PLANNED FOR 1800 SEPTEMBER 11 BY GROUPS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS PRO-CHINESE (CINESOFILI). RE LATTER, BITHAS REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO POLICE INFORMATION, GROUPS WOULD BE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVOKE INCIDENTS WITH POLICE. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS SEPTEMBER 11 DEMONSTRATION TO BE ORGANIZED BY THREE GROUPS, (1) PAN STUDENTS UNION FORMED SEPTEMBER 9 FROM ALL FACULTIES OF THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY, (2) NATIONAL STUDENT UNION OF GREECE (ANTI-EFEE) AND (3) COMMUNIST YOUTH OF GREECE (KNE). COMBINED GROUPS NOW SCHEDULED TO ASSEMBLE 1800 HOURS IN CENTRAL ARISTOTELOS SQUARE FOR DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH CYPRUS, CHILE AND "OTHER PEOPLES OF ALL THE WORLD OPPRESSED BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM". (USIS CENTER OVERLOOKS SQUARE FROM THIRD FLOOR LOCATION. PRECAUTIONS BEING TAKEN.) KNE APPEAL ALSO URGES WORKERS TO JOIN STUDENTS.

4. CONGEN WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS ON PLANNED DEMONSTRATION AS AVAILABLE.

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PAGE 03 THESSA 00556 111029Z

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Message Attributes

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